



# LONDON *loves* BUSINESS

## The London Top 20 Fastest-Growing Companies

2 September 2011 | By Sophie Hobson, Gabriella Griffith



In the face of economic turmoil, these 20 London companies have excelled. Find out how they've grown

The London Top 20 Fastest-Growing Companies is sponsored by:



	CAGR* (%)	Company name	Turnover year 1 (£)	Turnover year 2 (£)	Turnover year 3 (£)	Profit year 3 (£)
1	165.5	M J Media	1,903,000	6,638,000	13,412,000	105,000
2	125.9	Priseflex	6,168,000	18,339,000	31,462,000	368,000
3	121.0	Montararo Asset Management	5,076,000	7,035,000	24,789,000	Profit withheld at company's request
4	115.3	The Flying Music Group	4,653,000	13,017,000	21,587,000	262,000
5	114.4	Fixmetix	5,521,000	15,615,000	25,375,000	732,000
6	88.9	Mitorra International	9,125,000	20,257,000	32,560,000	901,000
7	72.5	Moo Print	2,799,000	5,382,000	8,089,000	48,000
8	71.2	Thomas Gibson Fine Art	2,833,000	39,442,000	63,998,000	1,751,000
9	64.1	Double Helix Bio-Technology Development	6,101,000	12,222,000	16,438,000	2,498,000
10	62.9	FirstCare	1,918,000	2,373,000	5,090,000	259,000
11	60.5	Bodystretch	2,381,000	4,302,000	6,136,000	92,000
12	58.1	Seven Investment Management	12,214,000	17,448,000	30,546,000	1,108,000
13	57.1	London Linen Supply	7,850,000	17,392,000	19,368,000	1,362,000
14	56.1	Top10.comMedia	4,025,000	9,263,000	9,806,000	107,000
15	54.7	Ixaris Systems	3,543,000	4,826,000	8,476,000	158,000
16	51.8	SDM Security Group	2,570,000	4,734,000	5,922,000	175,000
17	51.5	Fluidata	2,207,000	3,160,000	5,063,000	537,000
18	50.4	avantage Reply	4,291,000	4,308,000	9,708,000	2,158,000
19	43.4	Lakehouse Holdings	59,539,000	68,847,000	103,993,000	2,673,000
20	42.7	Advantage Travel Centres	3,456,000	3,635,000	7,036,000	882,000

\*CAGR = compound annual growth rate. For full criteria used, please see the bottom of this page. Private companies only. All figures in the table above are rounded to the nearest thousand.

## 8. Thomas Gibson Fine Art

CAGR: 71.2 per cent  
Turnover year 1: £21,833,000  
Turnover year 3: £63,998,000  
Profit: £1,751,000

[thomasgibsonfineart.com](http://thomasgibsonfineart.com)

Thomas Gibson Fine Art, founded in 1969, is a family-run private art dealership. Thomas Gibson's son Hugh joined less than 10 years ago after training at Sotheby's and Christie's, and now runs the business supported by two employees, and his father as advisor. The company specialises in European art from the impressionists up to the 21st century. It regularly deals Picasso, Matisse, Giacometti, Gauguin and Monet.

The company deals its own stock and takes commission on handling clients sales and purchases. "Getting works of art is the difficult part – we know where they are but they're not for sale," Hugh explains. Finding a buyer for a "great picture" among the "very private" 4,000-strong international mailing list is easier.

Hugh says the perception of the art world as glamorous is false, and believes expertise in one area is key. "We are traders – we just trade in pictures."

There are no external investors in the company, but it has a "very good relationship" with its bank and "everything is backed up by stock". A large number of sales on behalf of clients last year accounts for fast growth. Hugh thinks the success in spite of the global financial turbulence is partly due to the fact that faith in financial funds was shaken by the crash. "Art is a viable asset class – as long as you know what you're doing."